Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

storing membership data at a client having a client identification, said membership data including a first group identifier corresponding to a first group and a first expiration indicator;

~~transmitting~~ receiving a group membership file ~~at~~ from a host, said group membership file including a ~~second~~ plurality of group identifiers, each group identifier associated with a corresponding group, ~~member identifier and~~ a ~~second~~ corresponding expiration indicator, and one or more member identifiers; and

updating the membership data at the client.


2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein updating the membership data comprises:

examining the first expiration indicator to determine if membership in the first group has expired; and

deleting the first expiration indicator and the first group identifier in response to a determination that membership in the first group has expired.


3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of group identifiers includes a second group identifier associated with a member identifier and a second expiration indicator, and

wherein updating the membership data comprises:

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receiving the group membership file at the client;

comparing ~~the~~ <u>said</u> member identifier to the client identification; and

storing the second group identifier and the second expiration indicator at the client in response to ~~the~~ <u>said</u> member identifier matching the client identification.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the group membership file includes the first group identifier and two or more member identifiers associated with the first group identifier, and wherein updating the membership data comprises:

comparing each of said member identifiers to the client identification; and

deleting the first group identifier and the first expiration indicator in response to the client identification matching ~~one~~ <u>none</u> of said member identifiers.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the expiration indicator comprises a date.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the expiration indicator comprises a time.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

transmitting a message including a payload and a transmitted group identifier;

receiving the message at the client; and

extracting the payload from the message in response to the first group identifier matching the transmitted group identifier.

8. (Currently amended) An article comprising:

a machine-readable medium which stores machine-executable instructions, the instructions causing a machine having a client identification to:

store membership data, said membership data including a first group identifier corresponding to a first group and a first expiration indicator;

receive a group membership file from a host, said group membership file including a ~~second~~ <u>plurality of</u> group identifier<u>s, each group identifier</u> associated with a <u>corresponding group,</u> ~~member identifier and~~ a ~~second~~ <u>corresponding</u> expiration indicator<u>, and one or more member identifiers</u>; and

update the membership data.


9. (Original) The article of claim 8, wherein the instructions causing the machine to update the membership data include instructions causing the machine to:

examine the first expiration indicator to determine if membership in the first group has expired; and

delete the first expiration indicator and the first group identifier in response to a determination that membership in the first group has expired.


10. (Currently amended) The article of claim 8, wherein <u>the plurality of group identifiers includes a second group identifier associated with a member identifier and a second expiration indicator, and</u>

<u>wherein</u> the instructions causing the machine to update the membership data include instructions causing the machine to:

compare ~~the~~ <u>said</u> member identifier to the client identification; and

store the second group identifier and the second
expiration indicator at the client in response to ~~the~~ <u>said</u>
member identifier matching the client identification.

11. (Currently amended) The article of claim 8, wherein the
group membership file includes the first group identifier and
two or more member identifiers associated with the first group
identifier,

and wherein the instructions causing the machine to
update the membership data include instructions causing the
machine to:

compare each of said member identifiers to the client
identification; and

delete the first group identifier and the first
expiration indicator in response to the client identification
not matching ~~one~~ <u>none</u> of said member identifiers.

12. (Original) The article of claim 8, wherein the
expiration indicator comprises a date.

13. (Original) The article of claim 8, wherein the
expiration indicator comprises a time.

14. (Original) The article of claim 8, further comprising
instructions causing the machine to:

receive a message including a payload and a
transmitted group identifier; and

extract the payload from the message in response to
the first group identifier matching the transmitted group
identifier.

15. (Currently amended) An apparatus comprising:

a receiver to receive messages and a group membership file including a plurality of membership records, ~~a~~ each membership record including a member identifier associated with a ~~first~~ group identifier corresponding to one of a plurality of groups and a ~~first~~ corresponding expiration indicator;

a memory to store an apparatus identification;

a membership file to store a ~~second~~ first group identifier associated with a first group, the apparatus identification and an associated ~~second~~ first expiration indicator;

a clock to output a current time; and

a receiver controller coupled to the receiver, the memory, the membership file, and the clock, said receiver controller operative to update the membership file in response to one of the group membership file and the current time.

16. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the plurality of membership record includes a membership record including a second group identifier associated with a second group, a member identifier and a second expiration indicator, and

wherein the receiver is operative to compare the apparatus ~~client~~ identification to the member identifier in the second membership record and to store the ~~first~~ second group identifier and the ~~first~~ second expiration identifier in the membership file in response to the member identifier matching the apparatus identification.

17. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the receiver controller is operative to compare the ~~second~~ first expiration indicator to the current time and to delete the ~~second~~ first group identifier and the ~~second~~ first expiration

indicator in response to the ~~second~~ <u>first</u> expiration indicator exceeding or matching the current time.

18. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein a message includes a transmitted group identifier and a payload, and wherein the receiver controller is operative to extract the payload in response to the transmitted group identifier matching the ~~second~~ <u>first</u> group identifier.

19. (Currently amended) A system host comprising:

a memory to store a group membership file including data indicative of group memberships;

a group generator to generate membership records in a group membership file, ~~a~~ <u>each</u> membership record including a member identifier associated with a ~~first~~ group identifier <u>corresponding to one of a plurality of groups</u> and a ~~first~~ <u>corresponding</u> expiration indicator; and

a group controller to update the group membership file.

20. (Original) The system host of claim 19, further comprising a clock to output a current time, and wherein the group controller is operative to compare the expiration indicator to the current time and to delete the membership record in response to the expiration indicator exceeding or matching the current time.

21. (Original) The system host of claim 19, wherein the expiration indicator comprises a date.

22. (Original) The system host of claim 19, wherein the expiration indicator comprises a time.

23. (Currently amended) A system comprising:

a system host comprising:

a group generator to generate membership records in a group membership file, ~~a~~ each membership record including a member identifier associated with a ~~first~~ group identifier corresponding to one of a plurality of groups and a ~~first~~ corresponding expiration indicator; and

a transmitter to transmit the group membership file; and

a client comprising:

a receiver to receive messages and the group membership file;

a memory to store an apparatus identification;

a membership file to store ~~second~~ first group identifier associated with a first group, the apparatus identification and an associated ~~second~~ first expiration indicator;

a clock to output a current time; and

a receiver controller coupled to the receiver, the memory, the membership file, and the clock, said receiver controller operative to update the membership file in response to one of the group membership file and the current time.


24. (Currently amended) The system of claim 23, wherein the ~~second~~ first expiration indicator comprises a time.


25. (Currently amended) The system of claim 24, wherein the receiver controller is operative to compare the ~~second~~ first expiration indicator to the current time and to delete the ~~second~~ first group identifier and the ~~second~~ first expiration indicator in response to the ~~second~~ first expiration indicator exceeding or matching the current time.